

Leech Lake Tribal College Students Travel Abroad for Summer 2008

Five students from Leech Lake Tribal College will venture to California and Costa Rica participating in research-based science internships for tribal college students.

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) in San Jose, Costa Rica is sponsoring a summer internship entitled, "Native Americans & Pacific Islanders for Research Experience (NAPIRE)". Twelve Native American students from the United States, including Hawaii, Alaska and the Pacific Islands, will be participating in an intensive research internship in the rainforests of Costa Rica throughout the months of June and July of 2008.

Leann Dick and William David Davis II will be attending a 10-week summer internship at two OTS Biological Research Stations in Costa Rica. William will be working with a research team that will be conducting ecological assessments of streams and rivers of the lowland tropical rainforest. Leann will be working with a team of researchers that will be examining the reptilian ecology in the cloud forests above 4,000 feet elevation.

"Our NAPIRE students will be immersed in the tropical rainforest for 10 weeks and it will not be easy," states Michael Wassegijig Price, STEM Project Director at Leech Lake Tribal College. Price visited the OTS Biological Research Stations of La Selva and Lac Cruces in Costa Rica during the week of May 3rd. "They are in for an enriching and challenging experience in rainforest research".

National Aeronautical Space Administration (NASA) and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) are hosting a 10-week summer internship for tribal college students in California. Three tribal college students, Andrea Goodwin, Tallie Large and Mary Jo Frazer, will be attending the summer internship at NASA Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley, California starting on June 2nd. Andrea will be working on renewable energy technologies related to NASA spacecraft. Tallie will be working on examining 4 billion year old meteorite fragments for evidence of extraterrestrial organic molecules. Mary Jo will be working on a satellite remote sensing project at Dinosaur National Monument in California.

All five students are enrolled in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program at Leech Lake Tribal College.